

Please also cancel claims 1-13 in the annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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(14) (New) A method for transmitting data on a common medium in a system including a central station and a plurality of subscribers, data packets in the system being transmitted from the central station to the subscribers (downlink) and from the subscribers to the central station (uplink), the central station being responsible for coordinating media access via a protocol-oriented transmission frame, the transmission frame including a useful signal data phase and a signaling data phase for the uplink and the downlink, the method comprising:

dividing the signaling data phase for the downlink into a signaling data phase related to the central station and a protocol-related signaling data phase;

providing at least one identifier of a position in time of the protocol-related signaling data phase of the downlink in the transmission frame; and

including the at least one identifier directly in the signaling data phase for the downlink.

(15) (New) A method for transmitting data on a common medium in a system including a central station and a plurality of subscribers, data packets in the system being transmitted from the central station to the subscribers (downlink) and from the subscribers to the central station (uplink), the central station being responsible for coordinating media access via a protocol-oriented transmission frame, the transmission frame including a useful signal data phase and a signaling data phase for the uplink and the downlink, the method comprising:

dividing the signaling data phase for the downlink into a signaling data phase related to the central station and a protocol-related signaling data phase;

providing a first identifier of a position in time of the protocol-related signaling data phase of the downlink in the transmission frame; and

deriving the first identifier of the position in time of the protocol-related signaling data phase of the downlink from a second identifier, the second identifier being provided for a position of the signal data phase related to the central station.

16. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

announcing the position of the protocol-related signaling data phase, the position being announced in an announcement in the signaling data phase related to the central station, the announcement for indirectly identifying the protocol-related signaling data phase.

17. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein (the announcement) contains a time interval of the protocol-related signaling data phase.

18. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing a subscriber-related signaling data phase at a beginning of the transmission frame.

19. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing a first one of the at least one identifier immediately before the signaling data phase related to the central station, the first one of the at least one identifier for identifying a beginning of the transmission frame.

20. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a time interval between the signaling data phase related to the

central station and the protocol-related signaling data phase is a fixed value.

21. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

communicating to the subscribers via the central station a time interval between the signaling data phase related to the central station and the protocol-related data signaling data phase, the time interval between the signaling data phase related to the central station and the protocol-related signaling data phase being variable.

22. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a time interval between the signaling data phase related to the central station and the protocol-related signaling data phase is filled with useful data.

23. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the signaling data phase related to the central station is at a constant distance from a beginning of the transmission frame.

24. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing reference points in time for the signaling data phase related to the central station and the protocol-related signaling data phase, the reference points in time being located one of: i) in a beginning of a respective signaling data phase, ii) in a middle of a respective signaling data phase, and iii) in at least one of the at least one identifier.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

providing a first one of the at least one identifier before the signaling data phase related to the central station and a second one of the at least one

identifier before the protocol-related signaling data phase, the first one of the identifier and the second one of the at least one identifier being different from one another.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the first one of the identifier and the second one of the identifier being different from one another regardless of whether a position of the protocol-related signaling data phase is announced in the signaling data phase related to the central station.

27. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing the at least one identifier only before the protocol-related signaling data phase regardless of whether a position of the protocol-related signal data phase is announced in the signaling data phase related to the central station.

28. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing an additional identifier of the transmission frame independently of the at least one identifier.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-11 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/02685. This Preliminary Amendment also cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-13 in the annex of the International Preliminary Examination Report, and adds new claims 14-28. The new claims conform the claims to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and does not add new matter to the application.